

which grew in the same marsh, near the nest. Some of the pieces had been pulled up by the roots. It was twenty-seven inches across, and three or four inches in thickness, perfectly flat; dripping wet in its lowest layers. The birds sailed over our heads to another part of the marsh, where I examined them with my glass.

It will be deduced from what I have stated that the Crane in Lapland is not gregarious when it has once arrived at its summer quarters; that as soon as it reaches its breeding-place, for the most part as soon as the snow is mainly off the ground, it repairs its simple nest, and lays its two eggs; for two were in the four nests that have occurred to me, and two generally say those few natives who know anything about the subject. The nest is neither large nor concealed. The birds are silent towards intruders on the eggs. The young run probably as soon as, or soon after, they are hatched, and by some means are led or conveyed to a great distance by their parents after having been disturbed. They have a chestnut or tawny down; no feathers visible in their wings for some time. In Lapland, and as far as I have heard, in Sweden and Finland generally, the Crane never breeds otherwise than on the ground. It seems not to visit Norway.

April 4, 1859, Beeston, Nottingham.

XXI.—Recent Ornithological Publications.

1. ENGLISH PUBLICATIONS.

THE correspondent who furnished us with the review of Mr. Bree's 'Birds of Europe not observed in the British Isles,' published in our first Number, begs us to insert his apologies to that gentleman for having accidentally misquoted his words. In the extract given at page 96 of 'The Ibis' from Mr. Bree's account of *Aquila pennata* (Birds of Europe, page 70), the word "not" was unintentionally inserted. Four additional parts of this book have now appeared; and we hope to be able to persuade our correspondent to continue his able criticisms. But in the meanwhile we cannot avoid noticing a point in which we consider Mr. Bree in error. With reference to what he calls the "Azure-winged Magpie," it has now long been known that the

Spanish bird is quite a different species from the true *Pica cyanea* of Siberia. It was first brought to the notice of ornithologists, we believe, by Capt. Cook (afterwards Widdrington), the author of 'Sketches in Spain.' In that work (vol. ii. p. 258), it will be found alluded to as *Pica cyanea*. But some of his specimens having been placed in the hands of the late Prince Bonaparte, that acute observer instantly recognized their distinctness, and, on exhibiting them at the meeting of the British Association held at Birmingham in 1849, proposed to call the Spanish bird *Pica cooki* (see Report Brit. Assoc. 1849, p. 75). In the Prince's article on the Garruline Birds, in the Proc. Zool. Soc. for 1850, and in his 'Conspectus' (p. 382), the differences between the two species are clearly pointed out. They are very noticeable on comparison. Mr. Bree, though he figures an egg supposed to be of this bird, gives no details as to its nidification, or indeed as to its habits. He has apparently quite overlooked the interesting article of Baron R. König-Warthaussen on this subject in the fourth volume of 'Naumannia'*, and the notice of its eggs given in Cabanis' 'Journal für Ornithologie,' 1856, p. 32. We may also remark, that *Garrulus krynickii* of the Caucasus, *G. melanocephalus* of Syria, and *G. cervicalis* of Algeria are now generally considered as distinct species. The striking differences between the two latter are well pointed out by Mr. Tristram (who has himself observed both in a state of nature) in our last Number†. The Caucasian bird alone has some claims to be considered European.

The 4th and concluding part of the 'Illustrated Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1858 is not yet out; but we believe it will appear very shortly.

The 'Annals of Natural History' for February contain two articles relating to our branch of zoology. We cannot believe that Mr. Strickland's supposed new British Goose (*Anser paludosus*!) has remained so long unnamed. Is it Naumann's *Anser arvensis*, as distinguished from *A. segetum* in 'Naumannia' (iii. p. 5, pl. 4), or is it the true *A. segetum*? The second paper, Mr. Wallace's "Correction of an important error affecting the classification of the Psittacidæ" (p. 147), affords valuable ad-

* See 'Naumannia,' 1854, p. 30.

† See *antea*, p. 32.

ditional testimony to an improvement already made in our modern systematization of this group of birds. But Dr. Weiland has already written an elaborate article on this subject in the second volume of Cabanis' 'Journal für Ornithologie' (No. 12. p. lxi.), and clearly shown the close connexion between *Trichoglossus* and *Lorius*. Though we quite agree with Mr. Wallace as to the slight difference between the genera *Lorius* and *Eos*, we should prefer using the former name for the whole group as united, it having been constituted by Vigors in 1826 (Zool. Journ. ii. p. 400), long before Wagler's *Eos*, and moreover with the important character "*lingua setosa*" duly noticed.

A lately published addition to the British Museum Catalogues is that "of the Mammalia and Birds of New Guinea," by Dr. J. E. Gray and Mr. G. R. Gray. The list of birds is founded on the article "On the Zoology of New Guinea," published in the 'Proceedings of the Linnean Society' for December 1857, and on the "List of Birds obtained by Mr. Wallace in the Aru and Ké Islands," by Mr. G. R. Gray, in the Proc. Zool. Soc. 1858 (p. 169). The catalogue will be useful now that so much attention is attracted towards this peculiar zoology by Mr. Wallace's discoveries. One or two species, we think, are wrongly inserted; for instance, *Eurystomus gularis* and *Tchitrea gaimardi* are now well known to be African species*. *Dacelo undulatus* (p. 19) is most probably *Dacelo gigas* of Australia, though it is possible that it may be rediscovered as an independent species. *Lorius cardinalis* (p. 39) is the same as *Eclectus linnæi* (see P. Bp. in Proc. Zool. Soc. 1849, p. 143). The true *Geoffroi's personatus* (*Psittacus personatus* of the catalogue) is from Amboyna. The bird from New Guinea (Lobo) is, no doubt, *Geoffroi's aruensis*, which differs from *G. personatus* principally in its smaller size.

The 'Edinburgh Philosophical Journal' for April 1859 contains the second part of Mr. Andrew Murray's "Contributions to the Natural History of the Hudson's Bay Territories." A list of the birds is given, accompanied by many important remarks. Two species of Grouse are said to have been confounded under the name *Tetrao obscurus*. A supposed new Bernicle is named

* Confer Verreaux in Rev. Zool. 1855, p. 415, and Pucheran in Arch. Mus. Par. vii. 372.

Bernicla leucolæma; and the occurrence of the new Eider-duck (*Somateria*, v.—*nigrum*) on Great Slave Lake is noticed.

In the 3rd number of vol. xxvii. of the 'Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal' (1858) will be found the "Report of the Curator of the Zoological Department" (Mr. Blyth) for May in that year, in which he notices several novelties. Twelve species of birds from the Andaman Islands had lately been added to the Museum:—*Halcyon coromandelianus* and *H. smyrnensis*, *Corvus culminatus*, *Kittacincla albiventris*, sp. nov. (mentioned in our last Number, as described in Mr. Blyth's letters), *Sturnia erythropygia*, *Tephrodornis grisola*, *Geocichla innotata*, *Copsychus saularis*, *Artamus leucorhynchus*, *Edolius*, sp.?, *Pycnonotus jocosus*, and *Carpophaga sylvatica*. From a collection of stuffed birds lately presented to the Society, Mr. Blyth describes a new Lory—*Eos fuscata* (several specimens of this beautiful bird have lately been transmitted from Havre-Dorey by Mr. Wallace); *Trichoglossus ochrocephalus*, sp. nov., and *T. immarginatus*, sp. nov. Mr. Blyth rather calls in question the distinctness of *Lorius tricolor* and *Lorius cyanauchen* (*superbus*, Fras.); they are, however, in our opinion (formed on Mr. Wallace's specimens, of which we have made mention below), quite different, and inhabit different localities. A description is also given (p. 280) of the *Diardigallus fasciolatus*, of which we spoke *antea*, p. 115. Is this really different from *D. prælatus*, Bp., C. R. xliii. p. 415? In a recent letter Mr. Blyth says, "perhaps not." A drawing, apparently of this species, taken in Siam from the living bird by Finlayson some years ago, is in the India House, and was exhibited at a recent meeting of the Zoological Society by Mr. Gould.

2. FRENCH PUBLICATIONS.

The first part of a new work, entitled 'Richesses Ornithologiques du Midi de la France,' published at Marseilles, by MM. Jaubert and Barthélémy-Lapommeraye, is in our hands. There is much information in this book about the rare birds which visit the singular district called the Crau d'Arles and its vicinity. Many of our readers will be surprised to learn that *Vultur monachus* is considered a regular bird of passage here, and that the *Otogyps* has occurred in the same country, as testified by its

head, now in the Museum of Marseilles. But we cannot regard the S. Victoire Eagle (*Aquila barthelemyi*) as being really different from *Aquila chrysaëtos*, and we believe we may state that Mr. Gurney, who has living specimens in his possession, is nearly of the same opinion.

It is stated that Dr. Pucheran, of the Jardin des Plantes, has lately published in the 'Institut' a paper "sur les caractères générales de l'Ornithologie des Iles Sandwich," read before the Société Philomathique; but we have not yet seen it.

The last five numbers of the 'Revue et Magasin de Zoologie' for last year and the first for this year have been received. The papers relating to ornithology are (p. 346), "Note sur les *Lamprotorninæ*" (quære *Lamprotornithinæ*?), by M. Hartlaub. Dr. Hartlaub has, we are glad to say, in preparation a complete monograph of this difficult group of birds. "Description de deux nouvelles espèces d'Oiseaux découvertes dans le Sahara Algérien," par le Capitaine Loche: *Stoparola deserti* and *Malurus saharaë*. These appear to be the *Sylvia deserticola* and *Drymoica striaticeps* of Mr. Tristram, described in our last Number; but the figure of the former is barely recognizable. "Description d'un Perroquet nouveau," *Microsittace souancii* (p. 437), and "Observations sur le Perroquet mercenaire de Tschudi" (p. 513), by M. Jules Verreaux. The article called "Observations d'Ornithologie," by Dr. Pucheran, is in continuation of that author's valuable notes on the types of the Museum of Paris.

M. de Saussure's series of "Observations sur les Mœurs de divers Oiseaux de Mexique," in the 'Bibliothèque Universel,' published at Geneva, are remarkably interesting. The first of these (Bibl. Univ. 1858, i. p. 331) relates to the singular habits of a Woodpecker (*Colaptes rubricatus*, sive *mexicanus*), which stores up its acorns in the stems of aloes (*Agave*); the second (vol. iii. p. 14), to the habits of Humming-birds (*Trochilidæ*); the third (*ibid.* p. 168), to the Vultures; and the fourth and fifth (1859, vol. iv. p. 22), to the Trupials, Trogons, Anis, &c.

3. GERMAN PUBLICATIONS.

We have before us the fourth part of F. W. J. Baedeker's

illustrated work, 'Die Eier der Europäischen Vögel.' Though the figures cannot, in our opinion, compete with those of Mr. Hewitson, they possess considerable merit, and are accompanied by a text containing accurately-written notes on the propagation of the different species, in which the author has obtained the assistance of Herr L. Brehm and Herr W. Paessler. The low price of this book—each 4to part of 8 plates and text only costing 12 shillings—ought to secure it an extensive sale.

The 'Sitzungsberichte' of the Academy of Sciences of Vienna for January last contain another important contribution to S. American ornithology from the industrious pen of Herr August von Pelzel: it relates to new species of the genera *Synallaxis*, *Anabates*, and *Xenops* in the Imperial Collection, and is accompanied by extracts from the late Johann Natterer's notes on the *Furnariinæ* and *Synallaxinæ* which he met with in Brazil. No less than 20 species of *Synallaxis* and 17 of *Anabates*, in all upwards of 50 birds of these two subfamilies, were collected by that indefatigable naturalist.

The fifth number of Cabanis' 'Journal für Ornithologie,' dated "September 1858," was delivered in London on the 5th of January last. [We venture to hope that it will not be four months before the present part of 'The Ibis' reaches Berlin!] It contains original articles by Max. Prinz zu Wied, on the birds noticed during his travels in N. America; by Dr. Carl Bolle, on a new Finch from Western Africa (*Crithagra hartlaubi*), and some general notes by F. Boie. There are also some further interesting details concerning the nesting of the Lyre-bird (*Menura superba*), by Herr Becker, of Melbourne, S. A., and other shorter papers. Three nests and three eggs of the Lyre-bird were taken in the Yarra-Yarra mountains, near a station about 36 miles from Melbourne, in August 1857, by Mr. F. Williams. The egg of this species was first described and figured in the 'Journal für Ornithologie' for 1856 (p. 132, pl. 2. fig. 18). The 6th heft of the 'Journal' (for November 1858) is not yet arrived!

Of 'Naumannia' we have Parts ii. and iii. for last year. In Part ii. is a summary of the progress made in our knowledge of European oology, by the Editor. We hope that 'The Ibis'

may be the means of gratifying Dr. Baldamus' not unnatural wish, that two of our most active recent workers in this department will make public their discoveries more fully and more widely than can be done by putting them into auction-catalogues. The third part is occupied with an account of the meeting of the German Ornithological Society at Harzburg, on the 27th of June last and following days. Twenty-eight members were present. The account of the proceedings, and the papers presented to the meeting, which follow, will be read with interest by all lovers of ornithology. We must call particular attention to Dr. Blasius' remarks on "doubtful species of the European Bird-fauna." The next meeting of the Society commences on the Wednesday in Whitsuntide week (June 15th) of the present year, at Stuttgart.

The number of Wiegmann's 'Archiv' containing Dr. Hartlaub's "Bericht über die Leistungen in der Naturgeschichte der Vögel während des Jahres 1857" reached this country soon after the publication of the first Number of 'The Ibis.' It must be studied by every one who wishes to know what is going on in Ornithology. At p. 305 of the first volume of the same Journal for 1858 will be found the characters of a new Cormorant (*Graculus elegans*) in an article by Dr. R. A. Philippi, entitled "Beschreibung neuer Wirbelthiere aus Chili."

By Dr. Hartlaub's 'Bericht' our attention has been called to Dr. L. Buvry's "Mittheilungen aus Algerien," published in the 'Zeitschrift für allgemeine Erdkunde' for 1857. The author gives a general review of the "Ornis" of this region, which should be consulted by those who are now occupying themselves with Algerian ornithology. His promised book, 'Die Vögel Algeriens in kritischer Uebersicht,' has not yet, we believe, made its appearance.

At a subsequent page of the same Journal (p. 504) will be found some account of the proceedings of H. Radde, the Naturalist attached to the East-Siberian expedition of the Russian Geographical Society. In 1855 he was on the shores of Lake Baikal. In the spring of 1856 he reached the outposts of Kulusutajewsk, and had collected 100 birds at the end of the month, among which he mentions *Syrnhaptes paradoxus*. In

1857 he expected to be on the Amur, whence we believe he has already forwarded many interesting birds.

4. AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS.

Prof. Baird of Philadelphia has reissued his "Index to the General Report on N. American Birds," noticed in our last number, in the shape of a "Catalogue of North American Birds, chiefly in the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution." In this shape it forms a convenient list of the birds of the northern portion of the New World. We have also received from Professor Baird the sheets of the second volume of the 'Report of the United States' and Mexican Boundary Survey,' relating to the birds collected by the expedition. There are many useful notes on their localities, habits, &c. from the pens of Dr. Kennery, Lieut. Couch, and other well-known observers. This Report is intended to be illustrated with 23 coloured plates of the rarer species.

Page's 'La Plata, the Argentine Confederation and Paraguay; being a narrative of the exploration of the tributaries of the river La Plata and adjacent countries during the years 1853-56 under the orders of the U. S. Government,' contains, in the Appendix (p. 599), "Notes on the birds collected by the La Plata expedition," by Mr. Cassin. Mr. Cassin pronounces the collection to be "one of the most interesting ever made in South America," and to contain "numerous birds not before known." We hope, therefore, that he intends to give us a more complete account of it than is contained in the three pages devoted to these rather unsatisfactory notes. We shall gladly welcome such a useful contribution to South American ornithology.

The concluding sheets of the 'Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia' for last year contain a "Catalogue of Birds, collected by A. A. Henderson at Hakodadi, Island of Jesso, Japan, with Notes and Descriptions of Species, by John Cassin." Thirty-one species are mentioned, among which are two novelties of the family *Sylviidæ*, namely *Luscinia japonica* and *L. hendersonii*. Mr. Cassin promises us an

article on the birds of the Philippines, obtained during the same expedition by Dr. Henderson,—which we look forward to with much interest; as, though some fine collections have been made in those islands, and many new species described, we are destitute of any general account of their ornithology.

A new part of the quarto 'Journal' of the same Society (vol. iv. part i.) commences with illustrations of three very fine birds which have recently been described by Mr. Cassin: pl. 1, *Sele-nidera spectabilis*, a new Toucan, from Veragua; pl. 2, *Numida plumifera*, and pl. 3, *Phasidus niger*, both from Western Africa. The last bird is peculiarly interesting, as being a new form of the *Phasianidæ*, a group feebly represented in the Ethiopian Region by the genera *Numida* and *Agelastes*.

XXII.—*Letters, Extracts from Correspondence, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters from Mr. Gould and Mr. J. H. Gurney:—

To the Editor of the Ibis.

SIR,—As you will probably be desirous of recording in 'The Ibis' the capture of any of our rarer British birds, I send a few lines to inform you that a splendid female Goshawk (*Astur palumbarius*) was shot by one of the keepers of Sir S. Morton Peto, Bart., at Somerleyton, near Lowestoft in Suffolk, on the 24th of January in the present year. As I was shooting at Somerleyton at the time, the bird was placed in my hands soon after it was killed, and there can be no doubt, therefore, of its being a truly British specimen. The bird in question was a fine female, and weighed as nearly as possible 2 lbs. 14 oz. Had it lived another month or two at the utmost, it would have assumed its adult livery, a change having already commenced on the throat and upper part of the neck, the feathers on those parts being barred, while those on the breast had the usual elongated markings of immaturity. The bird had been noticed for nearly a month prior to its being shot, and on one occasion visited the neighbourhood of the keeper's house, causing the utmost alarm and consternation among his tame fowls. Its object in this in-